

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 00726 170049Z POSS DUPE  
ACTION H-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 HA-05 ISO-00 IO-14 /034 W  
-----056353 180742Z /10

R 160835Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9651  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 0726

BANGKOK FOR CHERNE

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SREF  
SUBJECT: MESSAGE TO MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM INTERNATIONAL  
RESCUE COMMITTEE DELEGATCON

1. DURING VISIT OF INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE  
DELEGATION TO SINGAPORE FEBRUARY 13-15, DELEGATION  
MEMBERS ASKED EMBASSY TO TRANSMIT FOLLOWING MESSAGE  
TO DEPARTMENT FOR DELIVERY TO THE HONORABLE JOSHUA  
EILBERG, CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATCON,  
CITIZENSHIP AND INTERNATIONAL LAW, HOUSE OF REPRE-  
SENTATIVES, WASHINGTON, D. C.

2. QUOTE. DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN:

AS MEMBERS OF AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL CITIZENS  
COMMISSION ASSEMBLED BY THE INTERNATIONAL RESCUE  
COMMITTEE FROM REPRESENTATIVE AREAS OF AMERICAN  
LIFE, WE EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION FOR YOUR HAVING  
ARRANGED A HEARING ON IMMIGRATION POLICY WHICH  
AMONG OTHER ISSUES WILL CONSIDER THE PLIGHT OF  
THOSE WHO RISK THEIR LIVES TO ESCAPE THE THREE  
INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES OF CAMBODIA, LAOS, AND  
VIETNAM.

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OUR COMMISSION CONSISTS OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
THE CATHOLIC, PROTESTANT, AND JEWISH COMMUNITIES,  
LEADERS IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND LABOR MOVEMENTS, IN  
BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LIFE, AND IN REFUGEE RE-  
SETTLEMENT. SOME OF OUR GROUP SUPPORTED THE U.S.  
POSITION IN VIETNAM, OTHERS WERE EARLY AND ACTIVE  
OPPONENTS OF U.S. VIETNAM POLICIES AND ACTCONS.

THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE WHATEVER AMONG US ABOUT OUR NATION'S HUMANITARIAN RESPONSIBILITY TO PEOPLE WHO SUFFER THE AFTERMATH OF WAR. OUR MISSION IS TAKING US TO MOST OF THE MAJOR ASIAN COUNTRIES TO WHICH THESE REFUGEES FLEE. WE HAVE LEARNED FROM FIRST-HAND OBSERVATCON HOW VITAL IS THE TASK IN WHICH YOUR SUBCOMMITTEE IS ENGAGED. WE BELIEVE THAT ONLY A WELL DESIGNED LONG-RANGE PROGRAM ADOPTED BY THE U.S. AND KNOWN TO THE OTHER NATIONS CAN ENCOURAGE OTHER COUNTRIES TO PARTCCIPATE IN A PROPORTIONATE EFFORT TO PROVIDE ASYLUM, EXPAND RE-SETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD, AND REDUCE THE UNWILLINGNESS OF SOME NATCONS AND MERCHANT VESSELS TO PROVIDE EVEN TEMPORARY SAFE HAVEN FOR THOSE DESPAIRING MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN WHO RISK THEIR LIVES IN A TREACHEROUS SEA ABOARD UNSEAWORTHY VESSELS, MANY OF WHOM HAVE BEEN CAST ADrift TO FACE NEAR CERTAIN DEATH. SUCH A PROGRAM WILL HONOR THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTION WHICH IDENTIFIES THE REUNIFICATION OF FAMILIES AS AN URGENT HUMAN RIGHT. SUCH A PROGRAM WILL ENCOURAGE THE SHIPPING MASTERS OF THE COMMERCIAL FLEETS WHICH TRAVEL THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AND THE GULF OF SIAM TO HONOR THE MARITIME LAW WHICH REQUIRES THAT THEY PERMIT THE OCCUPANTS OF FOUNDERING VESSELS TO BE TAKEN ABOARD AND DISCHARGED AT THE NEXT PORT OF CALL. SUCH A PROGRAM WILL HELP DISCHARGE OUR SPECIAL OBLI-  
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GATCON TO THOSE WHO FLEE THE IMPRISONMENT AND BRUTAL INDIGNITY THEY WOULD SUFFER BECAUSE THEY ONCE HAD AN ASSOCIATION WITH AN AMERICAN MILCTARY OR CIVILIAN AGENCY, OR WHO HAD AT ONE TIME BEEN EDUCATED IN AN AMERICAN SCHOOL OR HAD A CIVIL FUNCTION IN A FORMER GOVERNMENT IN THEIR LANDS. WE ARE PRESENTLY ASSEMBLING INFORMATION ABOUT THE PLIGHT OF THESE TRAGIC VICTIMS OF A WAR NOW ENDED AND THE OPPORTUNITIES TO ENCOURAGE THEIR RESETTLEMENT IN ASIAN COUNTRIES AS WELL AS IN OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE WESTERN WORLD. WE RESPECTFULLY REQUESTNAN OPPORTUNITY FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR COMMISSION TO PRESENTNOUR OBSERVATIONS AS WELL AS OUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A REASONABLE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE FOR OUR OWN COUNTRY. WE WOULD WANT OUR TESTIMONY TO CONTRIBUTE TO REALIZING AN OBJECTIVE WE SHARE IN COMMON, NAMELY, AN INTEGRATED LONG-RANGE U.S. POLICY WHICH COULD INSPIRE CONSTRUCTIVE AND GENEROUS RESPONSES AMONG BOTH THE NEIGHBORS OF CNDOCHINA AND MORE DISTANT COUNTRIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. (SIGNED) LEO CHERNE, WILLIAM J. CASEY, RABBI MARC TANENBAUM, JAMES MICHENER, BAYARD RUSTIN, PROFESSOR

KENNETH CAUTHEN, MSGR. JOHN AHERN, CECIL B. LYON,  
STEPHEN YOUNG, ELIZABETH COPLEY THAW, WARRAN MEEKER,  
JOHN RICHARDSON, THELMA RICHARDSON, ROBERT DE VECCHI,  
LOUIS WIESNER.  
HOLDRIDGE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEES, COMMITTEES, SEA RESCUES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780075-0733  
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**Office:** ACTION H  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3571245  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MESSAGE TO MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE DELEGATCON  
**TAGS:** SREF, SN, CB, LA, VM  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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